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Say Yeah to a New Era of Big Government, Eh?

A commentary by Sen. Alan Sanborn, R-Richmond Township. Feel free to publish.

I think Gov. Granholm is very personable, but I disagree with most policy initiatives that she puts forth. Generally, I prefer to let my legislative votes make my statement, but recent actions and statements by the governor have forced me to write this piece. Most notably, Gov. Granholm has done three things that should catch the public's attention.

How 'bout dat National Health Care?

Gov. Granholm continues to advocate for a national health care system. She cites Canada as the model for her proposal. She suggests that this would alleviate businesses of having to provide health care and it would ensure health care coverage for all. Assuming, for her sake, that this model is where the citizens of Michigan want to go, she fails to mention one thing – how do we pay for it? Of course there are other problems with the proposal, namely medical care in Canada is woefully inadequate and procedures that are routine in the United States can take months to schedule in Canada. Her proposal would exceed any business tax cut that could be provided, and it would be at the expense the health and welfare of our citizens.

Credit Scoring and Insurance Rates Benefit Whom?

The governor continues to perpetuate a long running myth that a person's credit score has nothing to do with insurance rates. Now I'm not going to defend insurance rates, because mine have increased as dramatically as everybody else's, but I do know that credit scores actually provide consumers a reduction. In hearing after hearing, meeting after meeting, I've discovered that one of the best ways to keep your rates down is to take care of your credit. The governor's proposal would force people with good credit to subsidize the insurance rates of people with bad credit.

(More)

Wait – Where are our Jobs Going?

Why is Michigan the only state in the country that is lagging in economic recovery? Gov. Granholm has suggested that it's because of our manufacturing-based economy. That still doesn't explain why other states that are dependent on manufacturing like Ohio and Indiana aren't suffering like we're suffering. In her State of the State address, the Governor said she would go anywhere and do anything to bring jobs to Michigan. To her credit, she did go to Japan and convince Toyota to build a plant here. Despite her pledge, she went back to her desk in Lansing and vetoed bills that would help small businesses. She vetoed bills that would have given tax cuts to Michigan's small business owners. Even worse, she vetoed a bill that would have prohibited the state from mandating ergonomic rules. Mandating ergonomic rules alone would erase the benefits of any business tax cut that the Legislature has enacted.

I believe we can turn Michigan's economic woes around. But government – governors and Legislatures – should not be in the business of picking winners and losers. The success of our economy has always been borne on the backs of Michigan entrepreneurs and laborers – not by bureaucrats in Lansing. By removing the state's artificial barriers to work, Michigan can get back on its feet and start moving forward. Big Government is not the warm blanket that the governor claims; it is the bucket of cold water that extinguishes the flames of Michigan's entrepreneurial spirit.

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